FORM No. 65.

Forest Department, Sind Circle.

Financial results of the Forest year 1894-95.

Division.	Timber and other produce removed from the Forest by Government agency.		Other Revenue.		Formation, protection and improvement of Forests.	Total.		Remarks.
	Receipts.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Sukkur	1,80,035	1,08,620	61,960	10,419	13,280	2,41,995	1,32,319	
Naushahro	81,414	58,843	24,940	7,807	8,517	1,06,354	75,167	
Hyderabad	1,72,415	1,06,618	40,747	8,578	11,025	2,13,162	1,26,221	
Jerruck	85,442	62,284	28,341	8,199	12,096	1,13,783	82,579	
Thar and Parkar	717	738	3,812	215	518	4,529	1,471	
Total ...	5,20,023	3,37,103	1,59,800	35,218	45,436	6,79,823	4,17,757	

Camp Sonda Forest,
25th November 1895.

F. R. DASAI,
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Sind Circle.

FORM No. 65.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, SIND CIRCLE.

Financial results of the Financial year 1894-95.

Divisions.	TIMBER AND OTHER PRODUCE REMOVED FROM THE FORESTS BY GOVERNMENT AGENCY.		OTHER REVENUE.		FORMATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF FORESTS.	TOTAL.		REMARKS.
	Receipts.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Sukkur	1,73,894	1,16,951	60,115	10,635	13,496	2,34,009	1,41,132	
Naushahro	79,247	59,088	23,892	7,965	8,578	1,03,139	75,631	
Hyderabad	1,70,919	1,04,792	38,896	8,717	12,519	2,09,815	1,26,028	
Jerruck	83,652	58,866	28,646	8,519	12,372	1,12,298	79,757	
Thar and Parkar	958	269	3,341	175	276	4,299	720	
Total ...	5,08,670	3,39,966	1,54,890	36,061	47,241	6,63,560	4,23,268	

Camp Sonda Forest,
25th November 1895.

F. R. DASAI,
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Sind Circle.

Forest Administration Reports of the Bombay Presidency, including Sind, for 1894-95, and the Annual Report of the Bombay Forest Survey for the year ending 30th September 1895.

No. 5068 OF 1896.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 29th June 1896.

Letter from the Survey Commissioner and Director of Land Records and Agriculture, No. S.—2823, dated 26th November 1895—Submitting, with his remarks, the Annual Report of the Bombay Forest Survey for the year ending 30th September 1895.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. R.—5168, dated 19th December 1895—Forwarding, with his remarks, a letter No. 5844, dated 13th idem, from the Conservator of Forests, C. C., who submits the Forest Administration Report of the Central Circle for the year 1894-95.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 198, dated 18th January 1896—Forwarding, with his remarks, a letter No. 3164, dated 19th December 1895, from the Deputy Conservator of Forests, N. C., who submits the Forest Administration Report of the Northern Circle for the year 1894-95.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, S. D., No. 250, dated 21st January 1896—Forwarding, with his remarks, a letter No. 4944, dated 2nd November 1895, from the Conservator of Forests, S. C., who submits the Forest Administration Report of the Southern Circle for the year 1894-95.

Memorandum from the Commissioner in Sind, No. 1129, dated 31st March 1896—Forwarding, with his remarks, a letter No. 2906, dated 25th November 1895, from the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle, who submits the Forest Administration Report of the Sind Circle for the year 1894-95.

RESOLUTION.—There has been a most unsatisfactory delay in the submission of these reports to Government, and the reasons have not been adequately explained. In particular the Sind Report was not received from the Commissioner till the 4th April, more than 4½ months after the prescribed date. Government must insist upon greater punctuality from all officers concerned.

Forest area.

2. The following statement shows the changes which have taken place in the forest area during the year under review :—

Circle.	Area on 1st July 1894.		Added.		Excluded.		Area on 30th June 1895.		Total Forest Area.
	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	
	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.
Northern Circle ...	*1,104 369/640	603 429/640	81 638/640	...	4 228/640	154 111/640	1,182 139/640	449 318/640	1,631 457/640
Central do. ...	6,145 198/640	12 154/640	164 197/640	6/640	4 183/640	30/640	6,305 212/640	12 130/640	6,317 342/640
Southern do. ...	2,470 577/640	2,901 60/640	350 212/640	...	1 312/640	403 186/640	2,819 477/640	2,497 514/640	5,317 351/640
Sind do. ...	976 483/640	4 555/640	79 236/640	...	59 185/640	183/640	996 534/640	4 372/640	1,001 266/640
Total ...	10,697 347/640	3,521 558/640	676 3/640	6/640	69 268/640	557 510/640	11,304 82/640	2,964 54/640	14,268 136/640

* Excluding the area of the leased forests in the Dángs, which is given at 678½ square miles.

The changes in the Northern Circle were practically confined to Thána. The demarcation and settlement of that district will shortly be completed, and when the revision demarcation of the Mándvi Táluka of Surat is finished, the permanent forest area of the Northern Circle will have been determined. In the Central Circle the only change of importance was the addition of 143 square miles to Reserved Forest in West Khándesh, owing to the final notification of

lands previously selected. In the Southern Circle large areas in Belgaum and Dhárwár and a smaller area in Kolába were converted from Protected into Reserved, while 44 square miles of newly selected lands were also added to the Reserved area in the same districts. In view of the comparatively small aggregate area of the Sind Forests the changes in each of the four Forest Divisions were considerable. In Sukkur they resulted in a net loss of 43 square miles. Mr. Desái's comment on the exclusion of a large area in the Rohri Táluka should not have found a place in an Administration Report, more particularly as it was approved by all the officers responsible for considering it including his predecessor and sanctioned by the Government of India. In Naushahro the improvement of irrigation deprived a considerable area of the necessary moisture which it formerly got from the waste water of the Indus, but it was replaced by a much larger area of more promising alluvial lands. In Jerruck the additions comprise lands in the delta of the Indus which, though of little use at present, are likely to prove valuable in the future: but the largest accessions were in Hyderabad, where well considered selections have helped to complete a long line of forest contiguous to the left bank of the Indus. The net effect of alluvion and diluvion on the aggregate area was not considerable, but as usual wood of material value was lost with the eroded lands. The remarks made on this point in paragraph 6 of the Commissioner's memorandum should receive very careful attention from the Deputy Conservator in charge of the Circle. It seems clear that both loss of much forest produce and expense to another Department would be saved by timely action.

Settlement.

3. The settlement work of the Northern Circle was practically confined to the Thána District. Progress was somewhat hampered by the ill-health and other duties of the Settlement Officer, but it is hoped that the work there as well as the revision work unfortunately found necessary in the Mándvi forests of Surat will be practically completed at the end of the current year. The reports do not show clearly what settlement work was done in the Central and Southern Circles, and in future the Conservators should adopt the form used in paragraph 14 of Mr. Wroughton's report. What remains to be done however in these Circles except in Kánara is only of a fragmentary nature. In Sind the work was brought so near to completion that the Forest Settlement Office was closed. Some areas however remained for final notification after enquiry into rights, which will be made by the Revenue officers.

Demarcation.

4. The following statement compares the length of boundary demarcated and the cost with those of the preceding year:—

Circle.	1893-94.		1894-95.	
	Length in miles of boundary lines cleared.	Cost of erecting cairns.	Length in miles of boundary lines cleared.	Cost of erecting cairns.
	Miles.	Rs.	Miles.	Rs.
Northern Circle	139½	3,738	105	3,157
Central do.	1,030	8,411	833	7,873
Southern do.	75	1,894	98	898
Sind do.	Not given	Not given.	Not given.	Not given.

In Government Resolution No. 4192, dated 4th June 1895, Government commented unfavourably on the progress made in this important matter in 1893-94. In the year under review still less was done, and no explanation has been offered. Moreover it is not shown how much of this work remained to be done, but it would appear that except in Kánara there is no reason why it should not be expeditiously completed. In next year's reports information should be given on this point. It is observed that in both years the average

cost per mile was within Rs. 12, and the Conservator, N. C., should explain why the cost per mile in the Panch Mahâls was nearly Rs. 100. In Sind for reasons which are accepted as satisfactory no demarcation was done: it is hoped that the work will be energetically carried on by the Forest officer now specially deputed for the purpose.

Survey.

5. The work of the Forest Survey Party during the year under review is shown below :—

Circle.	Triangulation.	Traversing.	Detail Survey.
	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.
Northern Circle ...	155	200	55·51
Central do. ...	.....	.....	296·62
Southern do. ...	875	75	116·69

The survey was continued on the same* scales as in former years. It is satisfactory to note that except in North Kánara, where the difficult nature of the country accounts for a high rate, the cost per square mile of every kind of work has diminished, and the cost of topography on the 16″ scale is even less than that of the 8″ scale, the decrease however being mainly due to the absence of European supervision. The suggestion of the Commissioner, S. D., that the progress made in the various branches of the work should be shown in a sketch attached to the report should be adopted. Government regret to learn of the heavy and long-standing arrears of the work of printing maps in the Poona Photozincographic Office, and it is hoped that there will be no further cause to complain on this account. The Governor in Council notices with satisfaction the Survey Commissioner's commendation of the close supervision of the party by Lieutenant-Colonel Hobday. Provision has been made in the Budget for 1896-97 for the increase of the subordinate establishment recommended, and it is hoped that further economy in working may thus be attained. In Sind Topographical Sheets of the Indus Riverain Survey are being gradually supplied for the riparian forest tracts.

*Bábul Reserves ... 16″
Teak areas... ... 8″
Others ... ... 4″

Working Plans.

6. In the Northern Circle a working plan for the Bhiwndi Range was formally sanctioned, and schemes for three other ranges were under preparation. Two hundred and seventy-five additional coupes were marked out in Thána, but the demarcation of a very large number of coupes still remains to be made, and Government are glad to learn that the Superintendent, Forest Surveys, promises to co-operate in the completion of this work. In the Central Circle working plans for two ranges were completed and for two more were under preparation : two hundred and seventy-two coupes were marked out on the ground by the Special Working Plans Officer, and 161 more by Divisional Forest Officers ; at the end of the year, however, the proportion of forest under systematic management was only 18·2 per cent. of the total area. Two parties were at work in the Southern Circle : the first finished the preparation of a scheme for Kolába ; the second was employed in Kánara, but owing to the difficult nature of the country as well as its unhealthiness progress was slow. These conditions however existed also in the previous year, and the explanation offered of a considerable decline in the outturn of work is hardly adequate. On the question of the method of organizing the teak forests in Kánara, to which Mr. MacGregor refers, it is unnecessary to say more. The work must now be completed in the manner in which it has hitherto been carried on, and probably there are no forests in India for which elaboration is more justifiable. It is satisfactory however to find that Mr. MacGregor anticipates a considerable decrease in the cost of organization in future years. In Sind little progress in the division of the forests into compartments was made during the year, both surveyors and labourers being difficult to obtain owing to the great demand for their services elsewhere. There are at present no work-

ing plans for this province, but a Special Working Plans Establishment has lately been sanctioned, and provision made for it in the Budget for 1896-97.

Buildings and Roads.

7. There was no important expenditure upon buildings in any Circle during the course of the year, and among improvements to communications the only work calling for mention was the completion by the Public Works Department of the Jakraibari Ghát road, which connects the Dángs with Khándesh and should render easier the exploitation of the Dáng Forests.

General Protection.

8. The following statement shows the number and result of prosecutions for forest offences, the action taken under Section 67 of the Forest Act, and the number of animals impounded in the year under review and the previous year :—

Circle.	1893-94.							
	Prosecutions.	Acquittals.	Percentage of failures.	Cases compounded.	Amount realised.	Number of animals impounded for trespass in closed area.	Number of animals impounded for grazing in open area without passes.	Total of columns 7 and 8.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					Rs. a. p.			
Northern Circle	230	89	38·7	244	758 3 3	7,215	2,122	9,337
Central do.	1,437	295	20·5	926	1,790 0 0	188,584	106,185	294,769
Southern do.	499	143	28·65	361	1,176 0 0	5,386	8,206	13,592
Sind do.	39	14	35·9	171	528 0 0	14,129	7,542	21,671
Total ...	2,205	541	24·53	1,702	4,252 3 3	215,314	124,055	339,369

Circle.	1894-95.							
	Prosecutions.	Acquittals.	Percentage of failures.	Cases compounded.	Amount realised.	Number of animals impounded for trespass in closed area.	Number of animals impounded for grazing in open area without passes.	Total of columns 7 and 8.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					Rs. a. p.			
Northern Circle	324	94	29	451	2,091 7 9	7,868	2,671	10,539
Central do.	1,716	341	19·8	1,458	5,041 0 0	222,516	115,402	337,918
Southern do.	407	72	17·7	416	1,571 0 0	10,778	7,654	18,432
Sind do.	46	21	46	172	459 0 0	1,6918	6,070	22,988
Total ..	2,493	528	21·1	2,497	9,162 7 9	258,080	131,797	389,877

The total number of prosecutions increased by 288, the number of cases compounded by 795, and the number of cattle impounded by over 50,000. It is, however, satisfactory to notice that there was a decrease in the proportion of acquittals to convictions. There was a large increase in Sind in the proportion of failures to cases sent for trial, but the total number of prosecutions—46—was too small to warrant any inference from the proportion.

Grass and grazing.

9. The working of the Grazing Rules is a subject regarding which reports are still awaited from almost all districts, and until these reports are considered the Governor in Council does not wish to record any definite conclusions. But he cannot regard without concern the very large increase in the number of animals impounded and the fact that most of the prosecutions and proceedings under Section 67 of the Forest Act are on account of illicit grazing. The enormous proportion of cases of all these classes occurring in the Central Circle

continues to be a prominent feature of the figures. Some reasons for this fact were indicated in paragraph 8 of Government Resolution No. 4192, dated 4th June 1895, and another is pointed out by the Commissioner, S. D., that trespass is more easily detected in the sparse forest which prevails in the Central Circle than in the dense jungles of Kánara and Belgaum. But it cannot but be a matter for regret that so large a number of animals as is shown in the table above was impounded. The comparison of the number with that of animals impounded for trespassing on private lands is of little use, for the area of occupied lands is immensely in excess of the area of forest, and the protection of forest does not stand on the same footing as the protection of crops. It must be remembered that no effectual conservation is possible if the people generally are in antipathy to it, and that much irritation to a large number of people must be caused by so extensive impounding as is shown. The fact that out of 11,807 cases dealt with under Section 67—most of them on account of illicit grazing—the offenders were dismissed with a warning in no fewer than 10,349, shows that there is a desire to treat the people leniently, and the probability is that without some alteration in the system of dealing with the forest areas there will be no material decrease in the number of cases of illicit grazing. The table shows that trespass in closed areas is very much more common than grazing without passes in open areas. Now the areas closed and open are given as follows :—

Circle.	Closed.	Open.	
	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	
Northern Circle	290	*1,982	* Including the area of the leased forest in the Dángs which is 678½ square miles.
Central do.	1,951	4,366	
Southern do.	852	4,520	
Sind do.	54	947	

On the one hand it is clear that the forest open to grazing, if it is suitably situated, is ample for the purpose, but on the other hand there can be little doubt that the forest shown to be closed is larger than the establishment can by any possibility effectually close. This is particularly the case in the Central Circle where the proportion of closed forest is very high, and there is some evidence that there is no great difference in parts of that Circle between the areas considered to be open and those considered to be closed. In preparing the reports on the working of the Grazing Rules the Collectors should consider this point very carefully. Unless closure can be made effectual it is better not to attempt it. The impounding of or prosecution on account of a very small proportion of the cattle which trespass does harm and not good. Closure in the immediate vicinity of occupied land is scarcely practicable without fences, and elsewhere areas which it is considered necessary to close should be very clearly demarcated so that the owners of animals may have full means of knowing where grazing is prohibited. It is worthy of remark that the receipts from grazing fees and from the sale of grass amount to more than one-half of the gross revenue of the Central Circle, as will appear from the figures given in paragraph 15. Apparently therefore the great bulk of the forest area in that Circle is in its present condition of more use for the supply of fodder than for the supply of wood, and that circumstance should be duly considered in proposing measures for the management of it. His Excellency in Council has noted with satisfaction the judicious instructions regarding the opening to grazing of exploited compartments issued by the Deputy Conservator in charge of Sind Circle, and the system of roughly fencing compartments under reproduction which prevails in that province is suitable.

10. The number of agricultural cattle allowed to graze free was as follows :—

Circle.	Number of Agricultural cattle allowed to graze free.	
	1893-94.	1894-95.
Northern Circle	303,778	303,869
Central do.	363,977	409,546
Southern do.	73,673	91,528
Sind do.	14,849	15,715

It will be observed that there was an increase in every Circle.

Protection from fire.

11. The figures given regarding forest fires are at best only approximately accurate. Only 1·1 per cent. of the protected area in West Thána is reported to have been burnt, but in East Thána the proportion was 6 per cent.; the damage done was very serious, and as it seems that many of the fires are deliberately caused it will be considered, in the event of the special protective establishment lately sanctioned proving unable to cope with the evil, whether some of the more drastic measures suggested should not be carried out. In Surat, including the Dángs, no less than 93·6 per cent. of the area protected was burnt over, but though Mr. Wallinger's energetic efforts to save the large forest block of the Mándvi Range eventually resulted in failure, he has shown grounds for believing that a system of fire tracing properly organized and strenuously worked is capable of effecting the object in view. In the Panch Maháls 9·5 per cent. of the area protected is shown to have been burnt, but it is hoped that with more methodical management this percentage may be considerably reduced. The difficulty of fire protection in the wild and unhealthy region of the Dángs is appreciated by His Excellency the Governor in Council, but he has confidence that the Conservator will not relax his efforts in this valuable teak tract. In the Central Circle the area burnt increased from 3 to 5 per cent. of the area protected, and this is ascribed to the unusual dryness of the year. By far the largest area burnt (acres 138,981) was in West Khándesh. The Conservator makes no comment upon the remarks offered by the Collector on this subject, but the experiment Mr. Cumine suggests seems well worth trying in some specially selected area such as the slopes of the Sátpudas. In the Southern Circle the slight decrease in the proportion under fire protection to the total area of Reserves is due to the conversion of 305 square miles of Protected into Reserved Forest. There was an increased expenditure upon protection, but the dryness of the year occasioned an increase of the area burnt. It is noticed that the fires in the Southern Circle, and more especially in Belgaum, are ascribed largely to deliberate incendiarism on the part of people anxious to get an early supply of grass, or to procure ashes for their fields. In this connection attention is drawn to Government Resolution No. 1942, dated 24th March 1888, and the penalty prescribed should be enforced, subject to the precaution directed, where it is beyond doubt that fires are due to wilful mischief. In Sind the fire protection operations were attended with gratifying results, the area burnt (acres 3,544) being less than half that of the previous year. This is ascribed partly to the exceptionally high inundation of the Indus, which by producing a luxuriant growth of grass removed the temptation to cattle owners to set fire to the forests, but partly also, and more especially in Jerruck, to the energy and vigilance of the local Forest officers.

Improvement.

12. Natural reproduction seems to have been normal except in the Southern Circle, where it was retarded by drought, and in Sind, where it was favoured by the high inundation extending to areas not usually flooded. This effect is attended with some disadvantages as the silt deposit in some places buries all vegetation, but the advantages considerably outweigh the disadvantages, and where, as in Jerruck, annually recurring floods have prevented young growth, systematic planting can be adopted. The observations of the Conservator, N. C., on the

disastrous effects of annual fires upon seedlings show the great importance of fire protection. The remarks of Mr. Hight quoted by the Conservator, C. C., are of especial value as a result of actual observation that though improvement may be slow, it is steady. The natural reproduction by seed in the fuel forests used for the supply of the railway in the Southern Circle is a satisfactory feature and the Conservator should consider whether special steps cannot be taken to encourage the growth of the more valuable timber trees referred to.

13. The information given regarding artificial reproduction in the Northern and Central Circles is scanty, but the remarks of the Conservator, S. C., on this subject are sensible, and he seems to be exercising a wise discretion in devoting less attention to the maintenance of expensive plantations of doubtful utility than to the supplement of natural growth by the dibbling-in of seed and planting-out of seedlings under cover of trees of less valuable species. In Sind, too, regular plantations were not undertaken, but large quantities of bábul seed were sown broadcast with fairly good results. The Governor in Council will be glad to learn the result of further experimental sowings of the rain tree, which is said to extract salt from the soil.

Exploitation.

14. There has been no change in the method of working the forests of the Northern Circle except in the Dángs. The permit system which has been in force there seems to have been very wasteful, and an arrangement by which payment is made for material actually cut should, if it can be worked, prove more economical. The experiment failed during the year under review, and the inaccessibility and unhealthiness of the tract are likely to interfere with its success, but a report of the results of further trial will be awaited with interest. In Thána the coupe system continued to work well: all but 25 of the 273 coupes laid out for sale were disposed of, and it was not found necessary in the interests of Government or the public to undertake any departmental exploitation. In spite of large timber sales in Jawhár, Dharampor and Baroda there was an unabated demand for Government wood from the West Thána coupes. Elsewhere the forests were not systematically worked. Teak on occupied lands was found sufficient to meet the demand in the Panch Maháls. In the Central Circle operations both departmental and other were on a somewhat smaller scale than in the preceding year; in West Khándesh and Poona a large amount of teak was departmentally exploited, but in both divisions a considerable proportion remained unsold; 15 coupes in teak forest were also sold for exploitation by purchasers in Poona, and 12 in the bábul forests of Sholápur. Besides these measures clear fellings of bábul were carried out in most divisions, and a good deal of Government timber was removed from disforested and occupied lands. There is nothing of importance to record with regard to the exploitation of timber in the Southern Circle. There was an increased yield of teak in Kánara and Belgaum, but it was counterbalanced by the reduced outturn elsewhere. It is noticed that the supply of much of the fuel demand for the Southern Marátha Railway was transferred from the Belgaum to the Kánara forests. The Deputy Conservator of Forests in Sind has given at some length the history of the so-called departmental system of extracting firewood and its unfortunate results; but as this matter has been disposed of in Government Resolution No. 4055, dated 22nd May 1896, it is unnecessary to refer to it further. The figures for timber exploited by purchasers show a very large increase in respect of rafters as compared with the previous year, which is ascribed by the Deputy Conservator to the exhaustion of waste lands outside forests by reckless cutting; and there seems good ground for thinking that the value of the Sind Forests—apart from fuel—will lie in the future rather in their capability of producing small than large timber. As regards minor forest produce a large revenue is obtained, as will appear from the table in the next paragraph, from grazing fees, and the grass of valuable Kurans is sold by auction. Other miscellaneous produce is for the most part disposed of on the farming system, but with the exception of rosha oil in the Central Circle, and hirdas in that and the Southern Circle, there is none of great importance.

15. The receipts from grazing fees and sale of grass in the several Circles are shown below:—

Circle.	Receipts.	
	1893-94.	1894-95.
	Rs.	Rs.
Northern Circle	28,656	25,135
Central do.	3,86,211	4,02,198
Southern do.	1,01,762	1,04,601
Sind do.	52,952	51,222
Total ...	5,69,581	5,83,156

In the Central Circle, as already observed, a large proportion of the revenue is derived from this source. Elsewhere it is less important.

16. Free grants of timber were made in the several Circles to the extent shown below:—

Circle.	Value of Free Grants of Timber.	
	1893-94.	1894-95.
	Rs.	Rs.
Northern Circle...	2,957	3,453
Central do.	2,634	2,026
Southern do.	76,555 cubic feet (Value not given.)	66,925 cubic feet (Value not given.)
Sind do.	704	1,162

17. The financial results of the year under review and the preceding year are compared in the following statement:—

Financial Results.

Circle.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Net Revenue.		Increase or Decrease in Net Revenue in
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1894-95.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Northern Circle ...	7,60,954	7,38,680	2,64,947	2,75,931	4,96,007	4,62,749	—33,258
Central do. ...	8,14,169	7,84,401	5,13,130	5,42,471	3,01,039	2,41,930	—59,109
Southern do. ...	15,31,317	15,25,028	8,60,481	8,15,680	6,70,836	7,09,348	+38,512
Sind do. ...	6,79,252	6,79,823	4,58,470	4,17,757	2,20,782	2,62,066	+41,284
Total ...	37,85,692	37,27,932	20,97,028	20,51,839	16,88,664	16,76,093	—12,571

It will be seen that on the whole the year does not compare favourably with the previous one from a financial point of view, the increase in the net revenue of the Southern and Sind Circles being more than counterbalanced by the decrease elsewhere. The results however compare favourably with those of any year except 1893-94. In the Northern Circle the decrease is largely due to the absence of an item special to the preceding year, *viz.*, the sale of the Government share in the forests of 3 Inám villages in the Panch Maháls. There was however also a considerable loss of revenue in the Dángs owing to the change of system referred to in paragraph 14: on the other hand the increase of more than half a lákh in the Thána receipts owing to the better prices obtained for the wood in coupes is very satisfactory. Expenditure was heavy in the Central Circle, the increase of Rs. 29,341 over the figures for the preceding year being due to enhanced outlay upon Conservancy and Establishment,

There was also a considerable fall in receipts, mainly owing to the small demand for timber and firewood in Khándesh. In the Southern Circle both receipts and charges were less than in the previous year: it is satisfactory to find that the balance due to the department outstanding at the end of the year had been reduced by more than a lákh, though it still amounted to the undesirably large figure of Rs. 1,87,756. The reduction in expenditure took place mainly under the head of the removal of produce from forests by Government agency. A reduction in the quantity of fuel supplied to the Railway and in the rates paid for its extraction combined with a very poor myrabolam crop to outweigh the improved results of the exploitation of timber in Kolába and thus receipts were diminished. The year was a most successful one in Sind, and the excellent results are mainly due to the recovery of outstanding balances in Sukkur and greater economy in working in Jerruck.

Establishment.

18. The conduct of the establishment seems to have been even worse than in 1893-94. Seventeen guards were dismissed in the Northern Circle, 22 in the Southern and no less than 90 in the Central Circle. Figures are not given for Sind. The question of revision of establishment still awaits the receipt of reports on the subject.

Controlling Staff.

19. The thanks of Government are due to the Conservators and to the Deputy Conservator who was in charge of the Sind Circle for their careful and zealous supervision, and His Excellency the Governor in Council notes with satisfaction the commendation bestowed on most of the Divisional Officers and the testimony given of the cordial relations subsisting between the Forest and other Departments.

20. The errors and discrepancies which have been discovered in scrutinizing the reports under review have been noted in the accompanying Appendix. Those in the report for the Northern Circle are particularly numerous, and it is hoped that the Conservator will endeavour to secure more accuracy in future.

J. H. DuBOULAY,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner in Sind,
The Commissioner, N. D.,
The Commissioner, C. D.,
The Commissioner, S. D.,
All Collectors, including the Collectors and Deputy Commissioners in Sind,
The Conservators of Forests, N., C., and S. Circles,
The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle,
The Survey Commissioner and Director of Land Records and Agriculture,
The Superintendent, Bombay Forest Surveys,
The Public Works Department of the Secretariat,
The Accountant General,
} With copies of the Reports.

The Government of India,
The Secretary of State,
} By letter.

The Editors' Tables, Bombay and Poona.